

What is claimed is:

1. An absorbent article for use in a perineal area of a user's body to absorb body fluid, the absorbent article comprising:

- a) a fluid pervious first layer forming a top body faceable surface;
- b) a fluid impervious second layer forming a bottom garment faceable surface opposite the body faceable surface;
- c) an absorbent core positioned between the first layer and the second layer;
- d) right and left cuffs which extend along a substantial portion of opposite right and left lateral sides of the absorbent article, respectively, the cuffs being located in at least a central portion of the absorbent article, each cuff having a base portion and a distal end, each cuff comprising an inner layer comprising a strip of resilient, highloft, fluid permeable material, and an outer layer comprising a flexible, fluid repellent porous material, said outer layer substantially covering said inner layer, and wherein the right and left cuffs are attached along their respective base portions to the right and left lateral sides of the absorbent article, respectively, such that the distal ends of the

cuffs extend outward from the right and left lateral sides of the absorbent article, respectively.

5 2. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent article has a longitudinal dimension and a transverse dimension, the longitudinal dimension corresponding to the right and left lateral sides of the absorbent article; the fluid pervious first layer having a right and left edge, and the fluid impervious second layer having a right and left edge, and wherein the fluid pervious first layer is joined to the fluid impervious second layer adjacent to their respective right and left edges so as to form right and left flanges, wherein the right and left flanges are adjacent the right and left lateral sides of the absorbent article, respectively, and wherein the right and left cuffs are adhered to at least a portion of the right and left flanges, respectively.

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25 3. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the strip of resilient, highloft, fluid permeable material is formed from fibers selected from the group consisting of polyester fibers, polyethylene/polyester bicomponent fibers, polyethylene/polypropylene bicomponent fibers, polypropylene/polyester bicomponent fibers, high

melting/low melting polyester bicomponent fibers, air laid pulp, pulp-fiber blends, and combinations thereof.

5 4. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the fluid repellent porous material is selected from the group consisting of apertured polymeric films, nonwoven fabrics and woven fabrics.

10 5. The absorbent article according to claim 2, wherein the flexible, fluid repellent porous material of each cuff is folded over the respective flange to form a cavity at the distal end of its respective cuff.

15 6. The absorbent article according to claim 12, wherein the cavity forms a compliant portion at the distal end of each respective cuff that deforms in response to compressive forces imparted by the user's body.

20 7. The absorbent article according to claim 1, wherein the absorbent core has an hourglass shape with enlarged end portions separated by a narrower center portion and wherein the center portion is thicker than the end portions.

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8. The absorbent article according to claim ~~2~~⁷ wherein the center portion further comprises sphagnum moss.

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